

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,  
AND  
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH SCITUATE.

ALSO  
STATISTICS FURNISHED BY TOWN CLERK, AND REPORT  
OF THE TOWN TREASURER FROM FEB. 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1868,  
TO FEB. 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1869.

ALSO, THE  
Report of the School Committee for 1868--9.

PLYMOUTH:  
PLYMOUTH ROCK STEAM PRESS.  
1869.

GENERAL HISTORY

OF THE

PEASANTS OF THE SOUTH

OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC

THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC IS THE ONLY ONE  
OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC IS THE ONLY ONE  
OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC IS THE ONLY ONE

History of the School Committee for 1850-51

OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC  
OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC IS THE ONLY ONE  
OF THE SOUTH-ATLANTIC IS THE ONLY ONE

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,  
AND  
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH SCITUATE.

ALSO  
STATISTICS FURNISHED BY TOWN CLERK, AND REPORT  
OF THE TOWN TREASURER FROM FEB. 1ST, 1868,  
TO FEB. 1ST, 1869.

ALSO, THE  
Report of the School Committee for 1868--9.

---

PLYMOUTH:  
PLYMOUTH ROCK STEAM PRESS.  
1869.



# REPORT.

---

## COMPENSATION TO TOWN OFFICERS.

*March 14th.* Samuel Tolman, Jr., for  $23\frac{1}{2}$  days' services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor from Feb. 1st, 1868, to March 13th, 1868, - - - \$35 25

*March 14th.* Samuel Tolman, Jr., for extra expenses as Overseer of the Poor, - - - 6 91

*March 14th.* Liba Litchfield, for 13 days' services as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor from Feb. 1, 1868, to March 13, 1868, - - - 19 50

*March 24th.* David B. Ford, for services as School Committee from March 4, 1867 to March 16, 1868, 22 00

Charles H. Litchfield, for serving town meeting warrants, - - - 4 00

James Southworth, for services as School Committee preparing School reports for 1867-8, - - - 15 50

Charles W. Sparrell, for warning town meetings, 8 00

E. T. Fogg, for services as town clerk, - - 21 95

Charles H. Litchfield, warning town meetings March, 1868, - - - 4 00

Samuel Waters, for services as School Committee in full to Feb. 20, 1869, - - - 24 00

James Southworth, for services as School Committee in full to March 1, 1869, - - - 38 00

William H. Fish, for services as School Committee in full to March 1, 1869, - - - 20 00

Edward Stowell, for services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for the year 1868-9, 129 75



William B. Pratt, for like services 49 days,	-	73	50
George K. Cushing, for like services 68 days,	-	102	00
Edward Stowell, for extra services and travelling expenses,	- - - - -	20	00
			<hr/>
		\$554	36

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

R. V. C. Turner, for removing wall and rounding corner near Benjamin Merritt's,	- - -	\$8	00
R. V. C. Turner, for removing wall and rounding corner near C. A. Litchfield's,	- - -	6	00
Barton R. Jacobs, for 130 ft. plank on mill dam, District No. 4,	- - - - -	5	20
Alfred Paine, for repairing Bridge in District, No. 6,		3	25
Pyam Jacobs, for building and repairing the road from Benjamin Merritt's corner to the town house,		295	00
John Gardner, for balance for building the road from near the house of Benjamin Litchfield to near the house of Elnathan Cushing,	- - -	582	50
William B. Cushing, for care of Union Bridge for the years 1867-8-9,	- - - - -	10	57
Abner Stetson, for repairing Bridge in District No. 18,	- - - - -	45	72
Abner Stetson, for railing Bridge in District No. 17,		9	71
*Abner Stetson, for repairing road in District No. 16, as ordered by vote of the Town,	- -	299	19
*Abner Stetson, for repairing Bridge near John K. Nash's,	- - - - -	58	42
*Pyam Jacobs, for building 2 Bridges near the house of Benjamin Merritt's,	- - - - -	83	37
Abner Stetson, 3 days' services Committee on Roads and Bridges,	- - - - -	6	00
			<hr/>
		\$1412	93

---

\*See Report of Committee on Roads and Bridges.

*Report of Committee on Roads and Bridges.*

Paid Abner Stetson for repairs on road in District No. 16, - - - - -	\$299 17
Paid Abner Stetson for repairs on the Bridge near the late residence of John K. Nash, - -	58 42
Paid Pyam Jacobs, for rebuilding two Bridges near Benjamin Merritt. - - - - -	83 37
	<hr/>
	\$440 96

SAMUEL C. CUDWORTH, } *Committee on*  
 ABNER STETSON, } *Roads and Bridges.*

*South Scituate, Feb. 20, 1869.*

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

E. T. Fogg, for Stationary, Envelopes, Postage Stamps, etc., - - - - -	\$7 94
Richard Freeman, for cutting 2 cords wood, -	3 00
Perez Simmons, for legal advice for 1866-7, -	15 00
Samuel Tolman, Jr., 1 Blank Book for Records, -	2 25
William H. Whitman, 1 journey from Plymouth to Thomas Stoddard's, - - - - -	2 00
Clothes Wringer for Alms House, - - - -	7 50
Abel A. Vinal, for rent of room for Mrs. Lucy Damon and daughter, - - - - -	52 67
George F. Andrews, for printing Town Reports, -	57 25
Wild, Bowler, and Co., for School Books, -	19 00
J. M. Hewes, for printing Teacher's Certificates, -	5 50
Billings Litchfield, for erecting Guide Posts and Boards, - - - - -	13 00
George F. Andrews, for printing School Reports, -	26 00
Gideon Ford, for repairing Pound, - - - -	2 00
Thomas R. Lawrence, for painting bier, - -	1 50

Ansel G. Groce, opposing Road on Petition of David P. Hatch and others,	- - - -	15 50
George K. Cushing, for Chloride of Lime, and expressing,	- - - - -	1 00
Willard Torrey, for returning William Prince to Reform School,	- - - - -	13 40
George H. Torrey, for opposing Road on petition of David P. Hatch and others,	- - -	18 65
William A. Wild, for School Books,	- -	32 51
Taggard & Thompson, for School Books for 1867,		80 91
Taggard & Thompson, for School Books for 1868,		51 78
C. W. Sparrell, erecting Guide Posts and Boards,		9 50
E. Worthington, bill of costs in case of Gill and others,	- - - - -	14 38
Samuel Tolman, Jr., for three days' services, and expenses to Plymouth and Hanover on Hingham and Quincy Bridge case,	- - - -	14 05
J. B. Harris, for services opposing Road on petition of David P. Hatch and others,	- - -	41 50
Seth Foster, for Pauper Register,	- - -	6 00
Horse Blanket,	- - - -	3 37
Seth Foster, for expressing,	- - - -	4 35
		<hr/> \$521 51

#### REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL- HOUSE, DISTRICT NO. 4.

The Committee chosen in March, 1868, to contract for and superintend the building of a school-house near the house of George E. Jacobs, have attended to that duty, and respectfully submit the following report : —

The Committee purchased of the heirs of Alfred Litchfield a lot of land containing 66 rods at \$1. 00 per rod, near the house of Mrs. Charles Damon, - \$66 00



Paid Joshua Bowker and Stephen Clapp for stone-									
work, grading, removing wall, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	00
Paid I. H. Cushing for carpenter work, plastering and									
painting said house, including stock,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400	00
Paid I. H. Cushing for picket fence,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	00
Heating apparatus,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	89
Furniture,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	193	57
Plan, specifications, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	00
Services of building Committee,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	00
								\$1,934	46

W. H. FISH,  
JAMES SOUTHWORTH,  
SAMUEL WATERS,

#### TOWN HALL ACCOUNT.

Received for use of Town Hall,	-	-	-	-	-	\$118	44
Paid for oil, chimneys, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	22	15
“ “ broom, fixtures, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	2	63
“ “ wood,	-	-	-	-	-	18	25
						\$43	03
Balance in favor of Town Hall,	-	-	-	-	-	\$75	41

#### TAXES ABATED AND GIVEN UP.

Alexander Frazier, 1866-7-8,	-	-	-	-	-	\$6	00
Hewit Baker, Jr., 1866-7,	-	-	-	-	-	4	81
David N. Groce, 1867,	-	-	-	-	-	2	00
John J. Pratt, 1867,	-	-	-	-	-	2	00
Jason Prince, 1867,	-	-	-	-	-	2	00
Frank Dyar, poll tax, 1867,	-	-	-	-	-	2	00
E. T. Fogg, error in tax of 1868,	-	-	-	-	-	2	81
George W. Jackman, personal of 1868,	-	-	-	-	-		69
Reuben H. Paine, poll tax of 1867,	-	-	-	-	-	2	00

James Thompson, tax of 1866,	-	-	-	-	5 75
Henry Pratt, " " 1867,	-	-	-	-	3 20
George Studley, " " 1866-7,	-	-	-	-	5 62
James Thompson, " " 1867-8,	-	-	-	-	7 62
Nap'ln B. Powell, " " 1867-8,	-	-	-	-	4 00
Alfred Freeman, " " 1867-8,	-	-	-	-	5 62
George Babb, " " 1868,	-	-	-	-	2 00
Ebenezer Brown, " " 1868,	-	-	-	-	5 95
Error in tax, " " "	-	-	-	-	2 42
Lincoln Prouty, " " "	-	-	-	-	3 75
Aaron Pratt, " " 1867-8,	-	-	-	-	74
					<hr/>
					\$70 98

#### RECAPITULATION OF EXPENSES.

Town officers,	-	-	-	-	-	\$554 36
Roads and Bridges,	-	-	-	-	-	1,412 93
Removing snow,	-	-	-	-	-	1,338 93
Highway arrears,	-	-	-	-	-	355 21
Gravel,	-	-	-	-	-	34 46
Extra labor,	-	-	-	-	-	87 16
Removing obstructions,	-	-	-	-	-	31 12
State aid,	-	-	-	-	-	1,116 30
Miscellaneous expenses,	-	-	-	-	-	521 51
Amount paid for schools,	-	-	-	-	-	3,708 13
Taxes abated and given up,	-	-	-	-	-	70 98
Expenses of poor at Almshouse,	-	-	-	-	-	1,526 29
" " " out of "	-	-	-	-	-	618 39
Repairs on Almshouse and barn,	-	-	-	-	-	143 11
State tax,	-	-	-	-	-	1,820 00
County tax,	-	-	-	-	-	943 14
						<hr/>
Total						\$14,282 02

## FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

*Dr.*

Note in favor of Joseph T. Litchfield,	-	-	-	\$725 00
" " " " Daniel Otis,	-	-	-	1,000 00
" " " " South Scituate Savings bank,	-	-	-	7,032 00
" " " " Methodist Episcopal Church,	-	-	-	200 00
" " " " Sally Wise,	-	-	-	625 00
" " " " Walter Foster, executor,	-	-	-	700 00
" " " " Charles W. Sylvester,	-	-	-	470 00
" " " " Harvey T. Sylvester,	-	-	-	200 00
" " " " Michael Ford,	-	-	-	1,025 00
" " " " Foster and Fogg, trustees,	-	-	-	2,325 00
" " " " Ebenezer Stetson,	-	-	-	200 00
" " " " Walter Foster,	-	-	-	300 00
" " " " R. V. C. Turner,	-	-	-	575 00
" " " " Israel Nash,	-	-	-	3,500 00
" " " " Joseph C. Tolman,	-	-	-	300 00
" " " " George Beasley,	-	-	-	100 00
Interest due on above notes,	-	-	-	499 33
Amount due almshouse keeper,	-	-	-	150 00
Amount due the several schools,	-	-	-	720 50
Due treasurer and collector,	-	-	-	100 00
				<hr/>
				\$20,746 83

*Cr.*

Cash in hands of treasurer,	-	-	-	\$1,250 55
Taxes outstanding,	-	-	-	113 06
Highway arrears due the town,	-	-	-	355 21
Due from the Commonwealth for state aid,	-	-	-	1,116 30
Due from aid to state paupers,	-	-	-	81 00
Due from Pembroke for aid to Hewitt Baker,	-	-	-	21 00

Due from West Bridgewater for aid to Jacob Talbot,	10 75
“ “ Stoughton “ “ Calvin Talbot,	4 00
“ “ North Bridgewater, for aid to Calvin Cromwell, - - - - -	12 00
“ “ E. T. Fogg, trustee, for board of Eunice Damon, - - - - -	94 64
Total, - - - - -	\$3,058 51
Balance against the town, - - - - -	\$17,688 32
Total, - - - - -	\$20,746 83

Respectfully submitted.

EDWARD STOWELL,  
GEORGE K. CUSHING, } *Selectmen of South*  
WILLIAM B. PRATT, } *Scituate.*

### ASSESSOR'S REPORT.

#### *Money Tax.*

* Total value of real estate, - - - -	\$557,639 00
† “ “ “ personal “ - - - -	237,775 00
Total valuation, - - - -	\$815,414 00

Rate of taxation. \$11.50 on \$1,000

Tax on real estate, - - - -	\$6,643 17
“ “ personal “ - - - -	2,734 70
“ “ 445 polls at \$2. 00 - - - -	890 00
	\$10,267 87
State tax, - - - -	\$1,820 00
County “ - - - -	943 14
Town “ for support of schools, - - - -	2,050 00
“ “ “ “ “ poor and inci- dental expenses, &c., - - - -	5,000 00
Overlayings, - - - -	454 73
	\$10,267 87

\* Decrease in Real Estate valuation from 1867, — \$193. 00.

† Increase in Personal Estate “ “ — \$10,570.



Highway deficiency,	-	-	-	\$288	57	
School-books,	-	-	-	16	04	\$304 61
Amount of taxes placed in the hands of the treasurer for collection,	-	-	-			\$10,572 48

*Highway Tax.*

Amount voted to be raised by the town,	-	-		\$2,000	00	
Overlayings,	-	-	-		59	46

Total,	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,059 46
--------	---	---	---	---	---	------------

Rate of taxation \$2. 10 on \$1,000.

Tax on real and personal,	-	-	-	-	\$1,712	36
“ “ 445 polls at 81 cents,	-	-	-	-	347	10
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,059 46

EDWARD STOWELL, }  
 GEORGE K. CUSHING, } *Assessors of South*  
 WILLIAM B. PRATT, } *Scituate.*

# REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1868, TO MARCH 1, 1869.

*Almshouse expenses.*

Articles on hand at almshouse Feb. 1, 1868,	-	-	\$883	52
Liba Litchfield, for supplies to almshouse,	-	-	18	42
Corn and meal, 177 bushels,	-	-	233	34
Rye meal, 4 bushels,	-	-	9	15
Flour, 13 barrels,	-	-	194	50
Saleratus, bread-riser, and cream tartar,	-	-	14	47
Bread and crackers,	-	-	8	60
John R. Brewer, for cow and calf,	-	-	100	00
J. Torrey and Co., for soap,	-	-	5	13
George K. Cushing, for supplies to almshouse,	-		7	29
Mrs. E. A. Studley, for work at almshouse, 30 wks.,			15	00
John E. Corthell, for meat,	-	-	122	65



Joseph T. Hart, for 3 pigs,	-	-	-	-	13	50
Joseph Merritt, for blacksmithing,	-	-	-	-	14	05
Tobacco, \$20 90, snuff, \$8 00,	-	-	-	-	28	90
Fresh and salt fish, clams, and lobsters,	-	-	-	-	12	91
Matches, lamp chimneys and wicks, brooms, clothes pins, garden seeds, crockery-ware, medicines, &c.,	-	-	-	-	21	01
Farming utensils,	-	-	-	-	1	90
Fine feed,	-	-	-	-	21	35
Beans, \$1 41, spices, \$5 75,	-	-	-	-	7	16
Tripe, \$5 22, mustard, 65 cts.,	-	-	-	-	5	87
Apples, green and dried,	-	-	-	-	5	60
Starch, 54 cts., raisins, \$4 64,	-	-	-	-	5	18
Sugar, 543 lbs.,	-	-	-	-	88	91
75 gallons molasses,	-	-	-	-	47	03
Cheese, \$10 56, kerosene, \$5 38,	-	-	-	-	15	94
Meat, \$19 99, rice, \$2 28, butter, \$19 40,	-	-	-	-	41	67
Tea, 56 lbs., \$64 64, coffee, \$4 53,	-	-	-	-	69	17
Standing wood purchased from Walter Foster,	-	-	-	-	\$40	00
Oil, \$7 45, salt, \$3 63,	-	-	-	-	11	08
Cotton cloth, calico, and other dry goods,	-	-	-	-	38	18
Shoes and clothing,	-	-	-	-	14	70
Mrs. Joshua James, for one cow,	-	-	-	-	50	00
Coffin and shroud for Mary Newcomb,	-	-	-	-	12	00
“ “ “ “ Lucy Damon,	-	-	-	-	12	00
“ “ “ “ Charles Mann,	-	-	-	-	12	00
Boots and stockings from Abel Sylvester,	-	-	-	-	8	05
Meat from John E. Corthell,	-	-	-	-	15	76
Dr. W. R. Howes, for medical attendance,	-	-	-	-	18	75
“ N. P. Brownell, “ “ “	-	-	-	-	21	83
Salary of almshouse keeper,	-	-	-	-	250	00
						<hr/>
						\$2,516 57

*Goods purchased for the Almshouse by the Keeper.*

Liquors and medicines,	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$12 29
Fresh and salt fish, lobsters, and clams,	-	-	-	-	-	-	26 23
Team work, \$14 00, butter, \$9 40,	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 40
Bread and crackers, \$7 30, churn, \$2 50,	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 80
Pasturing cow, \$8 00, chain, 62 cts.	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 62
Shoes and dry goods,	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 65
Repairs on wagon, harness, shoes, and baskets,	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 80
Seeds and seed potatoes, \$1 15, carbolic acid, \$1 00,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 15
Killing hogs, \$4 00, stove covers and grate, \$2 75,	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 75
Lime and plaster, \$5 28, brick, \$3 25,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 53
Salt, \$2 75, making cider, \$1 75,	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 50
Tin-ware,	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 04
Filing saws, \$1 00, apples, 65 cts.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 65
George H. Torrey, for 2 cows,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 00
							<hr/> \$140 41
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	<hr/> \$2,656 98

*Articles on hand at Almshouse, March 1, 1869.*

1 Horse,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$125 00
2 Cows,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165 00
3 Shoats,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54 00
19 Fowls,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 00
Hard wood, 18 cords,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100 00
Pine " 8 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32 00
Trash " 7 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 00
English hay, 2 tons,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40 00
Swale, " 1½ "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 00
Fresh " 1 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 00
Hard soap, \$4 00, tallow and candles, \$9 00,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13 00
Molasses, 50 cts., sugar, \$1 50,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 00
Vinegar, 40 gallons,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 00
Tea. 3 lbs. \$3 10, coffee, 50 cts.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 60

Beans, 3½ bushels, \$14 00, flour, \$7 00, - - -	21 00
Lard, 60 lbs., \$14 40, grease, \$1 20, - - -	15 60
Spices, \$2 00, bread-riser and saleratus, 50 cts., -	2 50
Oil, 48 cts., soft soap, 50 cts., - - -	98
Meal, \$1 15, fine feed, \$1 00, - - -	2 15
Corn, \$2 30, tobacco, \$12 00 - - -	14 30
Pork, 450 lbs., \$85 50, ham, 160 lbs., \$32 00, -	117 50
Beef, 275 lbs., \$38 50, eggs, 50 cts., - - -	39 00
Turnips, \$2 00, beets, \$2 00, parsnips, \$2 00, -	6 00
Cabbages, \$1 00, matches, 35 cts, - - -	1 35
Potatoes, 115 bushels, - - -	103 50
Apples, 5 barrels, - - -	15 00
Butter, \$2 00, salt, 25 cts., - - -	2 25
Cash in hands of almshouse keeper, - - -	10 92
Total, - - - - -	<u>\$962 65</u>

*Articles sold at Almshouse by Keeper.*

Hay, \$23 50, milk, \$2 61, - - -	\$31 11
Lard, \$5 32, beans, 20 cts. - - -	5 52
Potatoes, \$46 05, cabbages, \$5 15, - - -	51 20
Eggs, \$5 30, apples, \$7 70, - - -	13 00
Calf, - - - - -	12 00
Chickens, \$2 88, barrels, \$1 25, - - -	4 13
Letting horse, - - - - -	2 25
Meals and lodgings, - - - - -	24 87
1 calf to John E. Corthell, - - -	13 60
1 hide \$5 85, potatoes, \$1 51 - - -	7 36
Hay, - - - - -	3 00

\$168 04

RECAPITULATION.

Almshouse expenses, - - - - -	\$2,656 98
Articles sold from almshouse, - - -	168 04
“ on hand, March 1, 1869,- - -	962 65
Board of 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ paupers at \$2.07 $\frac{3}{4}$ per wk., 1,526 29	<u>1,526 29</u>
	\$2,656 98

Whole number of paupers supported in almshouse for the thirteen months ending March 1, 1869, 14. Admitted during the year, 1. Died during the thirteen months, 3. Whole number, March 1, 1869, 11. Average number during the thirteen months,  $13\frac{1}{20}$ . Average cost per week,  $\$2.07\frac{3}{10}$ .

There should be a deduction made from the almshouse expenses of \$50.00 for attendance on funerals, and \$50.00 for the care of the town hall by the keeper, which would reduce the average cost to a fraction less than \$1.94 per week.

*Repairs on Almshouse and barn.*

Lumber from Scituate, - - - - -	\$15 76
For zinc, paint, and nails, - - - - -	5 51
42 ft. pine plank, - - - - -	1 68
22 " " boards, - - - - -	1 82
500 " " " - - - - -	12 50
75 " " spruce joist, - - - - -	1 46
$\frac{1}{2}$ thousand shingles, - - - - -	2 25
Hardware, - - - - -	4 40
Nails, and screws, - - - - -	55
David W. Turner, for labor, - - - - -	54 13
R. V. C. Turner, for mason work, - - - - -	13 50
Lot Soule, for one pump and setting, - - - - -	27 50
Room paper, - - - - -	1 65
	<hr/>
	\$143 11

*Assistance rendered out of Almshouse.*

Supplies to Robert Lincoln, - - - - -	\$56 83
" " Thomas Stoddard, - - - - -	6 00
" " Amasa Palmer and wife, - - - - -	104 57
" " Marcia Witherell, - - - - -	61 25
" " Hewitt Baker, - - - - -	21 00
" " Warren Freeman, for medicine, - - - - -	1 00



Supplies to Sarah Totman, - - - - -	65 00
“ “ John Damon and wife, - - - - -	35 36
“ “ E. B. Howland and wife, - - - - -	93 05
“ “ Richard Freeman, - - - - -	8 00
“ “ Charles M. Leavitt, - - - - -	25 00
“ “ Jacob Talbot, - - - - -	10 75
“ “ Calvin Talbot, - - - - -	4 00
“ “ Sarah Ewell, - - - - -	63 18
“ “ Charles D. Muin, - - - - -	4 50
“ “ James Thompson, - - - - -	2 90
Charles W. Sparrell, for coffin and shroud for child of Richard Freeman, - - - - -	6 00
James Thompson, for digging grave, - - - - -	2 00
C. W. Sparrell, for coffin and robe for John Damon, - - - - -	12 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ Sarah Ewell, - - - - -	12 00
Dr. Brownell, for medical attendance on John Damon, - - - - -	7 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ family of C. Cromwell, - - - - -	12 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ W. Freeman, - - - - -	1 00
“ Howes, “ “ “ on Amasa Palmer, - - - - -	2 00
Gideon Ford, for digging grave for Sarah Ewell, - - - - -	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$618 39
Due from West Bridgewater for Jacob Talbot, - - - - -	\$10 75
“ “ Stoughton for Calvin Talbot, - - - - -	4 00
“ “ Pembroke “ Hewitt Baker and wife, - - - - -	21 00
“ “ No. Bridgewater for family of C. Cromwell, - - - - -	12 00
Received from the town of Abington for supplies to family of Charles M. Leavitt, - - - - -	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$72 75
	<hr/>
	\$545 64
For support of poor in almshouse, - - - - -	1,526 29
	<hr/>
Total for support of poor, - - - - -	\$2,071 93
Respectfully submitted.	
EDWARD STOWELL,	} <i>Overseers of the poor of South Scituate.</i>
GEORGE K. CUSHING,	
WILLIAM B. PRATT,	



## HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS.

Number of District.	Removing snow.	Highway Arrears.	Gravel.	Extra labor.	Removing obstructions.
1.	\$54 15	\$1 22	.....	\$10 00	.....
2.	112 57	29 37	.. ..	.....	.....
3.	77 04	19 70	.....	2 00	.....
4.	82 14	30 41	3 60	....	.....
5.	61 51	22 63	.....	.....	.. .
6.	125 90	9 64	2 73	10 00	.....
7.	.....	.....	1866, 90	.....	.....
7.	34 10	17 08	1868, 1 98	10 00	.....
8.	60 15	12 23	.....	.....	.....
9.	..... 1867, 8 59	1867, 3 75	.....	.....	.....
9.	104 29 1868, 15 97	.....	.....	3 75	.....
10.	27 04	19 16	3 00	10 00	.....
11.	24 05	4 52	2 94	.....	10 00
12.	67 30	10 00	4 00	10 00	.....
13.	36 76	8 02	4 26	.....	.....
14.	31 49	27 12	.....	.....	.....
15.	33 12	8 04	.....	10 00	.....
16.	26 71	.....	.....	.....	.....
17.	70 64	78	.....	.....	.....
18.	.. ... 1867, 1 60	1867, 1 96	.....	.....	.....
18.	53 31 1868, 11 84	1869, 1 84	...	.....	.....
19.	79 86	5 95	.....	.....	.....
20.	40 35	13 66	3 50	10 00	11 00
21.	68 60	13 37	.....	10 00	10 12
22.	56 20	27 47	....	....	.....
23.	11 50	36 84	....	1 41	.....
24.	8 35	.....	.....	.....	.....
	<u>\$1,338 93</u>	<u>\$355 21</u>	<u>\$34 46</u>	<u>\$87 16</u>	<u>\$31 12</u>

## DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID.

Henry T. Winslow .....	\$12 00	Eliza J. Bushnell.....	\$64 00
Matilda B. Stoddard.....	52 00	Elisah Coleman.....	79 00
Hannah Dover.....	52 00	Ruth B. Foster.....	58 80
Diana Freeman.....	44 00	James L. Hunt....	12 00
George B. Hayden.....	58 50	Rily E. Jenkins.....	78 00
John Lewis.....	58 50	Jairus W Leavitt..	19 50
Charles H. Totman, Guardian	104 00	Mary Spencer.....	52 00
George Studley.....	12 00	Edward P. Tolman...	78 00
Betsey B. Sylvester.....	52 00	Warren Freeman.....	8 00
Lydia Wilder .....	84 00	E. T. Fogg, Guardian.....	72 00
Joseph B. Goodrich.....	66 00		

Total, \$1,116. 30.

LIST OF JURORS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REVISION  
BY THE TOWN.

William C. Litchfield.	John Clapp.
Thomas H. Gardner.	Samuel D. Stetson.
Josiah Stoddard.	Benjamin W. Jacobs.
Ira B. Sanborn.	Thomas J. Tolman.
Joshua B. Reed.	Henry A. Turner.
Phillip Foster.	Peleg Curtis.
Nathaniel B. Clapp.	Liba Litchfield.
Simeon Damon.	Joseph Merritt, 2d.
Elisah Jacobs.	Alfred B. Litchfield.
Ezekiel T. Vinal.	Benjamin T. Ellms.
John Savage.	Charles Young.
Dexter M. Willcott.	James J. Farrar.
Coleman Ford.	Edwin Merritt.
Martin S. Curtis.	George H. Briggs.

Samuel Turner.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE SEVERAL  
SCHOOLS FROM THE APPROPRIATION OF MARCH, 1868, AND  
THE STATE SCHOOL FUND.

DISTRICT No. 1.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$36 87
Joseph T. Corlew, services as teacher, - - -	280 00
	<hr/>
	\$316 87

DISTRICT No. 2.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$19 37
Miss Mary E. Ramsdell, services as teacher, -	165 00
	<hr/>
	\$184 37

DISTRICT No. 3.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$28 12
Miss Martha A. Gilman, services as teacher, - -	165 00
	<hr/>
	\$193 12

DISTRICT No. 4.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$21 75
Miss Emma A. Sylvester, - - - - -	126 00
	<hr/>
	\$147 75

DISTRICT No. 5.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$29 50
Miss Martha W. Brooks, services as teacher, - -	154 00
	<hr/>
	\$183 50

DISTRICT No 6.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$30 50
Miss F. L. Howland, services as teacher, - - -	154 00
	<hr/>
	\$184 50

## DISTRICT No. 7.

For wood and fitting, - - - - -	\$47 95
Miss Harriet A Holbrook, services as teacher, - -	90 00
Miss Mary P. Howland, - - - - -	75 00
Miss Anna M. Pratt, services as assistant teacher, -	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$262 95
Total expenditures, - - - - -	\$1,473 06
Town appropriation, - - - - -	\$2,050 00
Proportion of State School fund, - -	131 26
For tuition of non-resident scholars, -	9 75
From Snow Bryant, - - - - -	2 55
	<hr/>
	\$2,193 56
Balance due the several districts, - - - - -	\$720 50

EXPENDITURES OF THE SEVERAL SCHOOL HOUSES FROM  
TOWN APPROPRIATION FOR CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

## DISTRICT No. 1.

Isaac Burrell, for ink, broom, &c., - - - - -	\$7 37
“ “ cleaning and repairing school-house, -	15 96
Charles H. Totman, repairing furniture and fixtures,	4 07
Snow Bryant, painting school-house, - - - - -	58 84
Paint, stock, and expressing, - - - - -	66 13
E. and I. W. Loring, H. A. Ventilating stove, -	33 88
George A. Bates, brooms, and building fires, - -	3 20
	<hr/>
	\$189 45

## DISTRICT No. 2.

S. Damon, repairs on school-house and furniture, -	\$17 20
John Gammon, building fires, - - - - -	2 10
	<hr/>
	\$19 30



## DISTRICT No. 3.

B. Litchfield, chain pump, and rep's on school-house, \$15 47

## DISTRICT No. 4.

*A J. Litchfield, school-house lot, - - - -	\$66 00
Isaac H. Cushing, building school house, -	1,400 00
“ “ “ “ fence, - - -	35 00
Joshua Bowker and Stephen Clapp, for stone work, -	150 00
W. B. Shattuck, for furniture, - - - -	175 82
Heating apparatus, - - - - -	46 89
Samuel Waters, for expressing specifications, &c., -	16 00
“ “ “ services as building committee, &c.,	27 75
William H. Fish, “ “ “ “ “ -	8 50
James Southworth, “ “ “ “ “ -	8 50
<hr/>	
Total cost of new school-house,	\$1,934 46
A. J. Litchfield, for cleaning house, furniture and fix- tures, - - - - -	5 44
<hr/>	
	\$1,939 90

\*See Report of building committee.

## DISTRICT No. 5.

Willard Torrey, furniture for school-house, - -	\$1 52
Charles W. Sparrell, repairs on blackboard, - -	8 75
E. T. Fogg, repairs on school-house, - - -	1 00
E. & I. W. Loring, H. A. ventilating stove and funnel, - - - - -	47 93
<hr/>	
	\$59 20

## DISTRICT No. 6.

Charles H. Litchfield, articles furnished school-house, \$1 75



## DISTRICT No. 7.

Samuel D. Stetson, for repairs on school-house and furniture for the years 1866-7-8,	-	-	-	\$10 00
Total from contingent fund,	-	-	-	\$2,235 07
Expenditures from town appropriation for schools from state fund, &c.	-	-	-	1,473 06
Total expenditures for schools,	-	-	-	\$3,708 13

Balance due the several schools, \$720.50.

Making total expense of schools for the year, including the cost  
of new school-house in Dist. No. 4, \$4,428.63.

*Articles to be inserted in the town meeting warrant to be holden  
on Monday, April 5th., at 9 o'clock, A. M.*

- 1st. To choose a Moderator.
- 2d. To choose a Town Clerk.
- 3d. To hear and act on the report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the poor.
- 4th. To hear and act on the report of the Treasurer.
- 5th. To hear the report of the Selectmen on Guide boards.
- 6th. To choose Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the poor, and all other necessary town officers.
- 7th. To choose special agents to have charge of the School-houses.
- 8th. To see in what manner the town will repair the highways the ensuing year.
- 9th. What sum of money will the town raise for the repairs of highways, and direct when and where, and in what manner the same shall be expended?
- 10th. To raise money for the support of the poor, schools, and to defray incidental expenses.
- 11th. In what manner and time shall the taxes be collected the ensuing year.
- 12th. Will the town authorize the Treasurer to hire money in anticipation of taxes?
- 13th. Will the town accept the list of Jurors as prepared by the Selectmen?
- 14th. Will the town cause the report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the poor for the ensuing year to be printed?
- 15th. To make allowances to town creditors.
- 16th. To hear and act on any committee heretofore chosen.
- 17th. What compensation will the town make for removing snow.
- 18th. To elect a Committee to settle with the Treasurer previous to the annual meeting of 1870.

- 19th. Will the town furnish a pump for the well opposite the house of Nathaniel H. Bowker?
- 20th. What action will the town take on the Order of Notice from the County Commissioners relative to widening, straightening, and new locating the road from near the house of the late Nathaniel Cushing over the mountain, so-called, to the Hingham line.

EDWARD STOWELL,	}	<i>Selectmen of South Scituate.</i>
GEORGE K. CUSHING,		
WILLIAM B. PRATT,		

EBENEZER T. FOGG, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH SCITUATE, MARCH 1, 1869.

*Dr.*

To balance due Town on last settlement.....	\$1,333 46
Taxes outstanding March 16, 1868.....	1,014 54
Assessment of 1868.....	10,572 48
Cash on Notes given by Treasurer.....	3,625 00
“ sale of Fish rights.....	89 50
“ use of Town Hall.....	77 91
“ sale of School-house, District No. 4 ...	158 05
“ Pedlers' licenses.....	24 00
“ sale of Grass on Town flats.....	27 90
“ received of Emma Bryant for schooling....	2 55
“ Town of Abington for schooling....	9 75
“ Estate of Jane Barrell.....	53 50
“ Town of Pembroke for support of Hewitt Baker....	26 00
“ Town of Abington for support of C. M. Leavitt ....	25 00
“ licence for sale of liquor.....	50 00
“ George Beasley, liquor agent.....	41 40
“ Susan W. Kimball, percentage on sales of liquor...	5 54
State Aid refunded.....	1,050 00
Corporation Tax refunded ...	1,329 83
State School Fund.....	131 26
	<hr/>
	\$19,647 67

*Cr.*

By Cash paid on Selectmen's orders and allowances.....	\$11,059 85
“ “ Notes and Interest.....	4,451 69
“ “ County Tax.....	943 14
“ “ State Tax.....	1,820 00
“ “ Scituate Tax.....	9 38
Taxes outstanding.....	113 06
Cash on hand.....	1,250 55
	<hr/>
	\$19,647 67

EBENEZER T. FOGG, *Treasurer.*

## MARRIAGES, 1868.

Date.	NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION.	BIRTHPLACE.
Jan. 7	John T. Talbot,	So. Scituate,	Shoemaker,	Bridgewater.
	Ellen M. Torrey,	" "		Easton.
March 8	Stephen Stetson,	" "	Farmer,	So. Scituate,
	Abby Knapp,	" "		" "
April 6	Charles A. Southworth,	Stoughton,	Trader,	Stoughton.
	Carrie F. Barrell,	So. Scituate,		So. Scituate.
June 7	Charles H. Damon,	Hanover,	Shoemaker,	Hanover.
	Emma Spear,	"		Hingham.
" 8	Joseph F. Turner,	Randolph,	Bootmaker,	Walpole.
	Nancy Maria Briggs,	So. Scituate,		Medford.
July 12	Edwin A. Turner,	Scituate,	Trader,	So. Scituate.
	Eliza H. Corthell,	So. Scituate,		" "
Nov. 1	James E. Damon,	" "	Shoemaker,	Hanover.
	Hannah M. Phillips,	Marshfield,		Marshfield.
" 22	Robert Sylvester, Jr.,	Hanover,	Ticket Mas'r	Hanover.
	Mary B. Turner,	So. Scituate,		So. Scituate.
" 22	Melvin Little,	" "	Merchant,	Marshfield.
	Laura A. Barker,	" "		So. Scituate.
" 26	Alvin D. Vinal,	" "	Shoemaker,	" "
	Vesta C. Paine,	" "		" "
" 26	Elwin M. Brown,	" "	Trunkmaker	" "
	Emily F. Damon,	" "		" "
" 27	Frederic W. Clapp,	" "	Merchant,	" "
	Mary A. Lewis,	Framingham		Framingham
" 29	Isaac H. Packard,	So. Scituate,	Shoemaker,	.....
	Emma L. Stoddard,	" "		So. Scituate.
" 30	George W. Goodrich,	" "	Farmer,	Boston.
	Ellen C. Welch,	" "		Ireland.
Dec. 24	John Johnson,	" "	"	Hartford, Ct.
	Sarah Robinson,	" "		So. Scituate.



## BIRTHS, 1868.

DATE.	NAME OF THE CHILD.	NAMES OF PARENTS.
1867.		
Jan. 22	Lizzie F. Smith,	George and Eliza Jane.
Oct. 28	George Bridges Ellms,	Nathaniel and —
1868.		
Jan. 6	Charles Herbert Hatch,	John W. and Sarah E.
" 16	Irene Hayden,	George B. and Louisa J.
" 17	Lucy Ann Leslie,	Patrick and Mary Ann.
" 31	Florence Alma Torry,	George H. and Harriet.
Feb. 5	Josie A. Prouty,	John H. and Anna A.
" 9	Jane Florence Richardson,	Andrew S. and Mahala D.
" 12	Edith Granger Ford,	David B. and Lavina S.
" 18	Fannie M. Studley,	George and Mary Ann.
" 27	Eunice White Loring,	Samuel and Eunice.
" 28	Jobe Lockwood Ellms,	Lincoln and Sarah J.
March 1	Albert Irving Farrar,	William H. and Josephine.
" 15	Isabella Sylvester,	Charlotte Sylvester.
" 27	William Monahan,	Patrick and Mary.
" 28	Helen Eliza Nash,	John C. and Sarah C.
April 6	Frank Herbert Brooks,	Elijah F. and Lizzie.
" 7	Lucy Ann Jane Gunderway,	Ezekiel and Lucy Ellen.
" 8	George F. Cowing,	George C. and Lydia H.
" 13	Nellie Gammon,	Morris and Margaret.
" 15	Thomas J. Tolman,	Thomas J. and Harriet.
" 25	Wilbur F. Jacobs.	Philip C. and E. Ellen.
" 25	Lizzie. J. Spencer,	John H. and Caroline E.
May 4	Thomas Edwin Waterman,	Thomas B. and Clara.
" 8	Agnes Bridget Shay,	John and Bridget.
June 20	Gustavus Elliot Litchfield,	Charles H. and Clarintha V.
July 9	Anna Richmond Bowker,	Stephen C. and Mandana
" 12	Anna Cora Thomas,	Alpheus and Lucy Ann.
" 20	Edgar Ernest Gardner,	John and Elizabeth.
" 27	Frank Lester Thomas,	Seth and Julia.
Aug. 9	Charles Elmer Totman,	Charles H. and Rebecca H.
" 14	Ernest Linwood Leavitt,	Charles M. and Matilda D.
Sept. 7	Mabel Rose Hatch,	Jonathan and Rachel.
" 7	Winnifred Williamson,	Charles and Catherine.
Oct. 5	Henry Corthell,	Joseph H. and Mercy C.
" 10	Emma G. Litchfield,	Alfred B. and Emily.
" 23	— Hart,	Joseph T. and Nellie.
Nov. 6	Lanty Thomas Gammon,	Edward and Mary.
" 28	— Green,	James and Bridget.

## DEATHS, 1868.

DATE.	NAME.	AGE.	BIRTHPLACE.	DISEASE
Jan. 15	Jane Barrell,	80	So. Scituate,	Dropsy.
Feb. 22	Ichabod Sylvester,	74	" "	Consumption.
" 10	Jacob Damon,	53	" "	Typhoid Fever.
March 3	Thomas Ruggles,	75	" "	Apoplexy.
June 8	Sarah M. Freeman,	..	" "	Consumption.
" 13	Estes Kimball,	61	Sutton,	Diabetis and Liver.
" 16	Martin C. Glover	72	Needham,	Apoplexy.
" 28	Phoebe Power.	71	....	Fits.
July 13	John Damon,	72	Scituate,	Cancer.
" 13	Rachel Cushing,	87	So. Scituate,	Old Age.
" 17	Sarah F. Ford,	13	" "	Inflam. of Bowels.
Oct. 25	Mary Newcomb,	79	" "	Old Age.
Nov. 3	Lucy Damon,	94	Hingham,	Conges'n of Lungs.
" 17	Emily James,	49	So. Scituate,	Tumor.
" 17	William Studley,	59	" "	Liver Complaint.
" 26	Warren F. Freeman,	23	" "	Consumption.
Dec. 3	Mary Wilder,	58	" "	"
" 5	Lloyd G. Henderson,	31	Hanover,	Stoppage.
" 6	Nancy Ellms,	68	Scituate,	Typhoid Fever.
" 8	Emma D. Jones,	20	So. Scituate,	Fever.
" 9	Alpheus F. Prince,	6	" "	Tumor
" 9	Sally Ewell,	75	" "	Old Age.
" 19	Lewis Groce,	73	....	"
Sept. 14	Florence A. Torrey,	7 m.	" "	Cholera Infantum.

SCHOOL REPORT  
OF THE  
TOWN OF SOUTH SCITUATE  
FOR 1868-9.





## REPORT.

---

In offering their Annual Report to the town, the School Committee could not, perhaps, do better than to give a general statement of the present condition of the schools under their charge, and then simply urge upon all interested, and upon parents especially, a perusal, or re-perusal, of former Reports, and there leave the matter for the present year, and thus save the labor and expense of preparing and publishing a new one. Those Reports consider about all the subjects of practical importance in relation to our schools and their interests, that the present committee could present in a volume. In looking hastily over a few of them, we see that they are wise and valuable in their general treatment of the subject of common school education, and in their various criticisms, suggestions and recommendations. It is to be feared, however, that they have not always had that careful and appreciative reading, from many, that they have merited; and that not a few of them have been thrown aside as worthless, soon after their reception, without even a single considerate and thorough perusal—the general fate, perhaps, of most public documents in all places. It is quite probable, too, that the present Report will meet with similar neglect, as there is no special reason why it should be better dealt with. Still, for the important interest which they represent, these

Reports all have a claim to the most careful attention—especially of all parents, whose children are yet in the schools.

But there must needs be a Report, we suppose, each year, on the principle of “line upon line, and precept upon precept,” and for the sake of the impression it is desirable to make in the interest of the schools. Passing over, then, various important topics treated of in the Reports before referred to, we shall confine ourselves in this Report, mainly to a consideration of the general wants of our schools, particularly in reference to instruction and government, hoping thus to stimulate their friends to a new interest in them. These schools are all, of course, far below our ideal, but we, nevertheless, consider them in a fair condition—in as fair a condition, perhaps, as we have any good reason to expect them to be, under existing circumstances. Some of them, justice requires us to say, are in excellent and satisfactory condition. We think it not advisable to speak particularly of any of them, to avoid the charge of invidiousness and partiality, and the actual condition of a school does not always indicate, as some seem to think it does, the special merits or demerits of a teacher. Various outside influences aid very much in giving character and reputation to a school, whether good or bad—and the influence of parents especially.

All of our present teachers, we think, are competent instructors of their pupils, in the various branches of education which they are required to teach; and they all seem to be conscientiously and faithfully devoted to their noble calling. Some of them have been teachers for several years and have secured an admirable reputation for com-

petency and success ; but others of them are quite young and inexperienced, with a reputation still to make. If this latter class, however, can only learn to govern as well as they already teach, they will yet take rank in the first class of their profession ; nor should they be disheartened or discouraged, by the various obstacles they meet with at the beginning, but resolve upon overcoming them all, and *succeeding* ; and all interested in the schools, parents and others, should extend to them friendly sympathy and aid.

All of our teachers have not given universal satisfaction, and perhaps only two or three, if any, have done so ; nor was it reasonable to expect that they would, when they were engaged. Teaching is an experiment with most young men and young women who enter the profession, and they have to learn wisdom by experience and by the things which they suffer, if they learn it at all. Some never do learn it, so as to become good teachers and good disciplinarians both, and happy are they, and the schools which they burden, if they early awake to the consciousness that they have mistaken their calling, and so abandon it for one to which they are better adapted. But some will succeed admirably after several successive failures ; and if any have the natural and acquired qualifications to make good teachers, there is so much need of them, that they should persevere till they become so, in spite of the "lions" that may be in their way. Nor should any district urge the removal of such teachers till they are thoroughly tested and proved to be essentially wanting. To give up one young teacher for another, is, in most cases, to try the same unpleasant experiment over again, and to keep the school in a continual state of excitement and demoralization. The ingenuous and promising young teachers that



have taught one term, will generally be much more valuable for future terms, and they who instigate their removal, often have reason to regret it, for their children's sake, for years to come. No district will be likely to have a good school, that is constantly calling for a change of teachers, seldom obtaining one that satisfies, and thus getting so unenviable a reputation, that a first-class teacher would avoid it. The school committee is sometimes expected to see that a good school is made out of the most heterogeneous and discordant elements and materials, evoking order from confusion, as by a magic wand, or a miracle. But the *best* thing, and the chief thing, any committee can do, is to obtain good teachers—teachers fully qualified for their profession by education, by character, by manners, and by their general moral and social influence. Without such teachers, good schools are not possible; and in their absence, no committee visitations, criticisms, examinations, or authoritative requirements, will avail much. Teachers that need looking after and aiding continually, in order to keep their schools in a good and prosperous condition, had better give up their profession, after a fair trial, or wait till they become more mature and competent, before they undertake to occupy such a responsible position. Few school committees, who have other pressing occupations upon their hands, can devote much of their time to the schools; and they could hardly afford to do so, if they could command the time. Our schools are so far apart, that unless each member of the committee keeps a horse, or a velocipede, or possesses a Weston's pedestrian qualities, his bills at the livery stable will be likely to far exceed his receipts for his services, if he makes many visits a term.

But whilst the essential thing for the school committee



to do, is to procure the most competent teachers, it should be considered by all interested, that such teachers are not always available. We have several times tried in vain to get them from the Normal Schools ; one reason is, that more attractive towns secure them, and often by the payment of larger salaries than our town offers. These influences draw away from us some of the most admirable teachers, who were born and educated here ; and there is, perhaps, no year in which we do not lose one or more of our best ones, whom we would very much like to retain. This condition of things, all can see, must cause the committee much anxiety and trouble, and sometimes necessitate their acceptance of teachers, mainly because they are available, and not because they are just such ones as are wanted. And here the obligations of parents may be appropriately commented upon, for they can certainly do much if they will, to make it pleasant for good teachers to remain with us, when we are fortunate enough to procure them. A good and faithful teacher, competent and apt to teach, and possessing a commanding, elevating, and molding influence, which a true and noble character and life give, is a treasure in a district which parents cannot too highly prize, and their relations to such an one should be the most kindly and helpful, that she may not be "home-sick" and soon seek a more congenial place. Some parents pursue an opposite course from this, and begin their criticisms of a new teacher as soon as she appears in their midst ; and their comments upon her methods of teaching and government, often based upon the partial or false representations of their children, are unjust, cruel and even untrue, and such as are calculated to injure and sometimes break up the school. But this should not be so.

Teachers, school committee, and parents all have their rights and duties, and they should all confer and co-operate together for the welfare of the schools. None of them should feel that authority resides in them alone, or that they are above criticism and correction, but welcome both from any competent and honest persons. It does no good, but much harm, for parents to stand apart from teacher and committee, and grumble and find fault to each other and to their neighbors,—especially before their children. If a teacher be in fault, either in her mode of teaching or of government, as is, of course, often the case, let her be seen, reasoned with, and, if need be, expostulated with; and if her fault, after being proved or admitted, cannot be corrected, let the committee be consulted, and, if a reconciliation cannot be made, let there be a peaceable separation—let the teacher depart. No teacher will be sustained by any wise committee, when clearly proved to be incompetent to teach or govern a school of her charge, and no wise parents can fail to have any real neglect or abuse of their children corrected, if they only go in a sensible and orderly way to work to secure their end. If parents side with their children in their complaints and grievances, and condemn the teacher, without knowing all the facts in the case, or withdraw their children from the school, all must see that the result can be only evil. We hope, therefore, that all parents who see serious defects in teachers or their schools will get more and more into the practice of consulting with those teachers in a friendly way, and, if necessary, with the school committee, with a view, not simply to condemn those defects, but to remedy them, and to make the schools as unobjectionable and perfect as possible. If this course be pursued it will evidently reflect much

credit upon all concerned, and all our schools will soon manifest the wisdom of it in their greatly improved condition.

The matter of government is usually the most troublesome one, especially in the case of young and inexperienced teachers; and too much, in this respect, is often exacted from them. Some parents find it very difficult, if not impossible, to govern three or four of their own children, less or more, at home, and they often give up the endeavor in despair, leaving them to their own wayward wills and ways; but they seem to expect that even a young lady, not yet out of her teens, will govern a school-room full of pupils in the most admirable and perfect manner, and as gently as an angel would. But how unreasonable this is — and with such children as some are! Children that are not well-behaved at their homes can hardly be expected to be so at school, it is so contrary to their chronic habit. Allowed to be daily impudent and insolent to their parents, it will be difficult for them not to be so to their teachers.

The question of corporal punishment in schools is receiving a new discussion in our day, and it looks, at present, as though it might soon be legally abolished. But, without expressing a decided opinion upon this subject, we are free to say that we should prefer teachers that could govern well without the rod — if we could but find them. There is, indeed, now and then, a teacher that can do this, having the commanding personal influence that enables her to secure the most perfect order by her simple magnetic influence and word; but such teachers are almost as rare as angel's visits are said to be, "few and far between." We wish we could find enough of them to put into all our



schools ; but, as we cannot, we must do the best we can with such materials as we have.

Corporal punishment is quite liable to be abused, and often is abused, both inconsiderately and rashly ; but, to take the right to use it from a teacher, would often render her almost powerless to secure conformity to her essential rules. And yet, some parents, who often thus punish their children themselves, and sometimes too impulsively and even cruelly, make bitter complaints if they get half as severely punished at school. But whipping in school is like war in a nation — if you go into the custom at all, you may go farther than you mean to at first, and there will be no holding up till one or the other party succumbs. Shall it be the teacher, the disobedient pupils coming off victorious, with flying colors and a flourish of trumpets ? — their parents jubilant with them. If so, that school is thoroughly demoralized, and it will be difficult indeed for it to be again brought into a healthy and prosperous condition. Parents, then, who use corporal punishment themselves, and advocate its use in schools, as nearly all do, should not interfere if the rod does sometimes fall rather heavily upon their children. Of course, if it be cruel and injurious, and disproportioned to the offence for which it is inflicted, interference in the orderly and effective manner before suggested, is just and proper, and it is their duty to correct the evil ; but a slight punishment is often worse than none. Still, the teacher who uses the rod should always use it thoughtfully and discreetly ; and it will be better if she dispenses with it, except in extreme cases, and simply holds it in reserve as a dernier resort. The fear of it is said to work admirably at times ; and, if this could be made a general substitute for actual inflictions, it would be well for all interested



But love is better than fear, and wisdom better than the rod. Happy is that teacher who has them both, and the school that can secure such an one! But "order is Heaven's first law"; and it should be the first law of the school-room, and vigorously enforced, in one way or another—though always kindly.

There is one of our schools that we shall probably be excused for singling out for special commendation on account of its new school-house, which should not go unnoticed. This school has hitherto, for a few years, at least, had rather an unenviable reputation, but it has redeemed itself now, and seems in a fair way to illustrate the Savior's saying, "the last shall be first," though we trust it will never be true of any other of our schools that "the first shall be last." But if some of those who stand high at present do not look well to their laurels, they will be very likely to be shorn of them, for this new aspirant for honor of being "the model school" is certainly advancing towards it. This is partly owing to its new and beautiful school-house, and to its pleasant location. It is no marvel that there could not be a good school, even with good teachers, in such an old, dilapidated building as the former one was, and in such an unsightly place in the woods, where "the laws of disorder" were so repellently illustrated. But, in their new school-house, the children seem to be new beings, and with their new and excellent teacher, whom they were fortunate to secure, they are going on finely; and their parents, and the whole neighborhood, seem to have had their interest in the school wonderfully revived—just pride in their improved condition and prospects serving as a stimulant.

A few weeks since, the teacher and pupils of this school, in the Fourth District, with a few friends, projected a social entertainment, with a gift tree, laden with many enticing presents for distribution, for its centre of attraction; and many of the

children and youth prepared themselves to do their part towards making the evening pleasant, by the speaking of various single pieces and dialogues, and the occasion was one of much interest and pleasure to the school-room full of neighbors assembled. But we can only add here, that this is a good example for other districts to follow; and we are pleased to learn that Mr. Joseph Corlew, of the First District school, has had two attractive and successful exhibitions during the winter, by which he has raised the handsome sum of seventy dollars (\$70), which he, and his pupils who assisted him, have generously appropriated to the purchase of a melodeon for the school-room. And we suggest whether it would not be well for other teachers to go and do likewise, so as to have the refining, elevating influence of good music, instrumental and vocal combined, in their schools? Let there be this new interest manifested in all our districts for the coming year, all interested classes heartily and earnestly co-operating, and great improvement will be made in every school.

The new school-house in the Fourth District is not only an ornament to that district, and a great aid to the school, but an honor to the town, which so promptly and generously voted to erect it. In behalf of the district, the committee thanks the town for its ample and unrestricted appropriation; and we think the architect, Mr. I. H. Cushing, of Hingham, is deserving much credit and honorable mention for the skill and fidelity, as well as perfect honesty, which he has manifested in its erection, giving, we believe, entire satisfaction to all interested. A statement of the cost of the lot and building will be found in its appropriate place — the Selectmen's Report.

In conclusion, we would suggest to the town, that the school-houses in the second and third districts very much need painting; and we think it will be economy to have the matter attended to at the earliest practicable time. The school-house in the Sixth District also needs new flooring and seating, with some other

minor improvements, and we trust that the town will vote the necessary appropriation for this needed work; and that all our school-houses will be kept in such good condition, all specially interested co-operating to this end, as to reflect credit upon the town.

W. H. FISH,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
JAMES SOUTHWORTH,		
SAMUEL WATERS,		

## FINANCIAL REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR 1868-9.

*Dr.*

To balance from last year.....	\$28 50
Cash from S. Bryant for schooling .....	2 55
“ “ Town of Abington for schooling.....	9 75
“ “ State School Fund.....	131 26
“ “ Town appropriation.....	2,050 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,222 06

*Cr.*

Teachers' wages for Summer schools .....	\$1,138 00
“ “ “ Winter schools.....	799 00
Making fires.....	7 00
Wood and fitting.....	214 06
	<hr/>
	\$2,158 06
Balance unexpended .....	\$64 00

*Summer Term, 5½ Months.*

No. 1.	Joseph T. Corlew.....	\$165 00
“ 2.	Mary E. Ramsdell .....	165 00
“ 3.	Martha A. Gilman.....	165 00
“ 4.	Emma A. Sylvester, 21 weeks .....	126 00
“ 5.	Martha W. Brooks.....	154 00
“ 6.	Fidelia L. Howland .....	154 00
“ 7.	{ Harriet A. Holbrook, 3 months.....	90 00
	{ Mary P. Howland, 2½ months....	75 00
	{ Anna M. Pratt, assistant.....	44 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,138 00

*Winter Term, 3½ Months.*

No. 1.	Joseph T. Corlew ...	\$112 00
“ 2.	John A. Coffey .....	112 00
“ 3.	Mary P. Howland.....	112 00
“ 4.	Martha A. Gilman, 15 weeks.....	120 00
“ 5.	Martha W. Brooks.....	105 00
“ 6.	Anna Gay.....	105 00
	{ Nancy Donnell.....	105 00
“ 7.	{ Anna M. Pratt, 3 weeks....	6 00
	{ Elizabeth Cushing, 11 weeks.....	22 00
		<hr/>
		\$799 00
Joseph T. Corlew, making fires.....		3 00
Martha W. Brooks, “ “ .....		4 00
		<hr/>
		\$806 00
		<hr/>
		1,138 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,944 00



*Wood and Fitting.*

No. 1	.....	\$36 87
2	.....	19 37
3	.....	28 12
4	.....	21 75
5	.....	\$29 50
6	.....	30 50
7	.....	47 95
		<hr/>
		\$214 06

JAMES SOUTHWORTH.

SOUTH SCITUATE, March 1, 1869.

*For the Committee.*





